Claims:

1. A system for media recognition comprising:

A media storage device comprising:

a first storage component for segment lengths and fingerprint identifiers; and

a second storage component for fingerprint and fingerprint identifiers;

a first means configured to extract fingerprint and segment length information from the media storage device to derive a media description packet comprising one or more fingerprints and segment length information;

a second means configured to accept the media description packet, and

a third means configured to resolve the fingerprint and segment length packet, and return associated metadata, if any.

2. The media recognition system set forth in claim 1 further comprising a fourth means configured to request additional segment fingerprints if a matching segment record is not found for the media description packet.

3. The media recognition system set forth in claim 1 further comprising a fifth means configured to request user input of associated metadata if a matching segment record is not found for the media description packet.

4. The media recognition system set forth in claim 1 further comprising a third storage means for fingerprint identifier to metadata mappings, and a sixth means configured to translate segment level fingerprint identifiers to metadata using said metadata mapping.

5. A method for media recognition, comprising the steps of:

extracting one or more fingerprints and segment lengths from a media storage device to form a media description packet;

querying said media description packet against a resolution service, comprising the resolution of the one or more fingerprints in said media description packet, and the

selection of one or more media description records containing matching fingerprint identifiers and segment lengths; and

returning the associated metadata from the reference media description record matching said media description packet.

6. The method for media recognition set forth in claim 5 wherein, if no media description record is found, additional fingerprints are extracted for each remaining segment from said media storage device, and a segment level identification is performed using said fingerprints.

7. The method for media recognition set forth in claim 6 comprising adding a new media description record if all segments within the record are properly resolved.

8. The method for media recognition set forth in claim 6 further comprising prompting to manually enter the metadata to complete a full media description record, and adding the completed record to the reference database.

9. The method for media recognition set forth in claim 7 further comprising prompting the user to manually enter the metadata for any unidentified segments, to complete a full media description record, and adding the completed record to the reference database.